

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) An aqueous solution consisting of:
potassium sorbate dissolved in tap water or deionized water at a concentration in the range of 0.3%-2.94%, by weight, the aqueous solution having a pH of 4.5 or higher;
providing a solution that has ~~lower~~ higher electrical conductivity and lower oxygen content than tap water such that when the solution is exposed to a metal surface the metal surface will remain free of rust, corrosion and scale.

2. (currently amended) An aqueous solution consisting of:
potassium sorbate dissolved in tap water or deionized water in which the concentration of potassium sorbate is in the range of 0.30% to 1.75%, and the aqueous solution having a pH of 4.5 or higher;
providing a solution that has higher ~~lower~~ electrical conductivity and lower oxygen content than tap water such that when the solution is exposed to a metal surface the metal surface will remain free of rust, corrosion and scale.

Claims 3-6. (canceled)
